

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14, 16 through 22, and 25 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 11 as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A polymer-containing composition comprising a block polymer compound, water or an aqueous solvent, and a functional material,

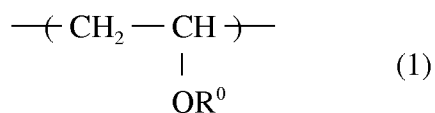
wherein the block polymer compound comprises block segments A, B, and C arranged in succession,

the block segment B is a hydrophilic block segment,

the block segment C is most hydrophilic while the block segment A is most hydrophobic,

the block segment C has an ionic group or an acidic group, and

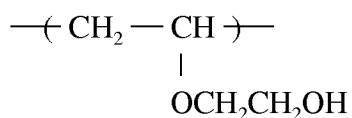
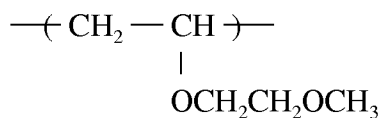
the block segment C is a repeating unit represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R^0 represents $-\text{X}-(\text{COOH})_r$ or $-\text{X}-(\text{COO-M})_r$; X represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkylene group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms, $-(\text{CH}(\text{R}^5)-\text{CH}(\text{R}^6)-\text{O})_p-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{CH}_{3-r}$,

$-(\text{CH}_2)_m-(\text{O})_n-(\text{CH}_2)_q-\text{CH}_{3-r}-$ or a structure in which at least one of methylene groups therein is replaced by a carbonyl group or an aromatic ring structure; r represents 1 or 2; p represents an integer from 1 to 18; m represents an integer from 0 to 35; n represents 1 or 0; q represents an integer from 0 to 17; M represents a monovalent or polyvalent cation; and R^5 and R^6 , which may be the same or different, each independently represent an alkyl group.

wherein the block segment B is a repeating unit represented by either one of the following formulae:



12. (Previously Presented) The polymer-containing composition according to claim 11, wherein the functional material is included in the block polymer compound.

13. (Previously Presented) The polymer-containing composition according to claim 11, wherein the functional material is a colorant.

14 - 25. (Cancelled)